

## U.S./NATO ‘no fly zone’ threat grows in Libya

BY SETH GALINSKY

March 2—Opponents of the Libyan government have wrested control of substantial portions of the country from the regime of Col. Moammar Gadhafi. While the civil war rages, imperialist powers from Washington to London to Paris are threatening to intervene, possibly by imposing a no-fly zone, or some other military operation to protect their profitable investments and strategic interests in North Africa.

Most of the main population centers in northeast Libya are under control of rebels as are some cities in the west. They are fighting against the suppression of basic democratic rights, including freedom of speech, press, and assembly. Gadhafi is still in control of Tripoli, the largest city, although antigovernment protesters have organized demonstrations there in face of fierce repression.

Washington, London, and the European Union have frozen billions of dollars of Libyan assets. The French government said February 28 that it was sending two planes with “human-  
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## Join Wisconsin showdown to stop assault on unions!



AP Photo/AI Goldis

Lansing, Michigan, protest February 26 against Wisconsin union-busting assault.

### ‘Working people need to stick together’

BY JOHN HAWKINS

MADISON, Wisconsin, March 2—“If all working people and all union people do not stick together we’re all going to go down,” said Carl Rose, a worker at the Oshkosh Truck Corporation and member of United Auto Worker Local 579. “This fight is about working people and unions in general

and what the rich in this country are doing to working people.”

For the second Saturday in a row, tens of thousands of union members and supporters rallied at the state capitol here February 26 to protest the union-busting “Budget Repair” bill proposed by Wisconsin governor Scott Walker. Organizers of the protest estimated the crowd at 100,000.

Unionists, many of them employed by private companies, came from throughout Wisconsin and nearby states to show their support. Carpenters, laborers, operating engineers, ironworkers, and electricians from Wisconsin and Illinois turned out in  
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## Thousands rally to support women’s right to abortion

BY JANICE LYNN

ATLANTA—Some 125 women and men participated in a “Walk for Choice” here February 26, one of several actions nationally in support of abortion rights. Handmade signs included, “Everyone deserves access to Reproductive Health.” The youthful crowd came from various Atlanta campuses.

Similar actions have been held around the country in response to a

February 18 vote in the U.S. House of Representatives barring federal funding for Planned Parenthood. The House resolution also eliminates support for Title X, a federal family-planning program for low-income women that provides birth control, breast and cervical cancer screenings, and testing for H.I.V. and other sexually transmitted diseases. U.S. laws already prevent Planned Parenthood from  
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Militant/Natalie Bombaro

Abortion right marchers in Philadelphia February 26 also joined prolabor rally there.

All out to back public workers and their unions in Wisconsin!

That’s the rallying cry of growing numbers of unionists and working people across the United States. Unions are sending delegations to join labor militants at the state capitol in Madison. Student groups are arriving. The protest there on February 26 was the largest yet—some 100,000. And there will be further mobilizations—in large cities, and in small towns—in Wisconsin as well as Indiana, Ohio, and other states.

The *Militant* urges our readers

### EDITORIAL

to join this fight. Bring a bus or car caravan to these ongoing actions. Organize fellow unionists and coworkers to go with you. Not only will your solidarity be welcomed, but struggles you are part of will win a wider hearing. Those engaged in other fights—against deportations, education cuts, cop brutality, in defense of abortion rights—have a stake in joining these labor battles as well.

Wisconsin is the first showdown between labor and capital since the bosses accelerated their assault on workers’ rights and job conditions as the capitalist crisis deepened sharply in late 2007. The employers, backed by their government and their two political parties, are speeding up the line, cutting back on safety, slashing pay, gutting health insurance and pensions, and tearing up work rules.

Now Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin is attempting to strip public em-  
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## Workers extend solidarity after New Zealand quake

BY MIKE TUCKER

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—An earthquake February 22 caused massive destruction of buildings and infrastructure throughout Christchurch, New Zealand’s second largest city. While police, soldiers, and armored vehicles immediately secured the central business district, most of the city’s working people were left to fend for themselves.

The confirmed death toll February 28 stood at 148 and was expected to rise above 200. Many were killed in three buildings that collapsed. Up to two-thirds of the central business district may have to be demolished. New Zealand prime minister John Key said it will take five to 10 years to rebuild the city.

The 6.3-magnitude earthquake follows a 7.1-size one that hit the city six months earlier on September 4.

That quake, which occurred at night, caused widespread damage but no deaths. More than 4,000 aftershocks have since shaken the city, many of them severe. The latest quake hit at  
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# Rightist outfit targets abortion rights for Blacks

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK—A billboard in Manhattan attacking the right of Black women to choose abortion sparked outrage here.

The three-story-high billboard pictured a six-year-old Black girl in a pink dress and the words, “The most dangerous place for an African American is in the womb.” It was placed in the busy downtown SoHo neighborhood not far from one of Planned Parenthood’s facilities.

“This an insult to Black women,” Francesca Wilder, 22, who is Black and national campus organizer for the Feminist Majority Foundation, told the *Militant*. She was one of thousands who joined a February 26 rally at City Hall opposing federal funding cuts to Planned Parenthood. The group that put it up “used the photograph of an innocent child to say Black women kill Black children. It’s racist and antichoice,” said Wilder. Among those speaking out, she added, were Black male union workers employed at jobs across the street from the billboard.

The right-wing campaign against legal abortion comes in light of recent statistics showing the high rate of abortions performed in New York City, a large number of them sought by Black women. A recent report by the city’s health department showed that in 2009 41 percent of pregnancies in the city were ended by abortion, nearly twice the national average. The rate of abortion among Black women was nearly 60 percent.

Abortion services are more acces-

sible in New York State because fewer legal restrictions are in place. Laws in many other states require parental consent for minors and waiting periods and counseling before being able to get an abortion.

The antiabortion display was erected by the Texas-based outfit Life Always, which had planned to keep it up at this location for three weeks and then tour it to other cities. Similar antiabortion billboards targeting Black women have been displayed over the past year in Jacksonville, Florida, and Austin, Texas, by the antiabortion group Heroic Media. In Atlanta in February 2010, Georgia Right to Life placed 80 billboards around the city proclaiming, “Black children are an endangered species.”

At a February 23 news conference here, Life Always founding board member Stephen Broden, who is Black and pastor of Fair Park Bible church in Dallas, tried to associate this campaign with Black History Month. “We celebrate our history, but our future is in jeopardy as a genocidal plot is carried out through abortion,” he stated.

Broden ran as a Republican Party candidate for Congress in Texas in 2010, featuring his antiabortion views along with attacks on immigrant rights. In an interview with the *New American* last September, he called for “protecting states from invasion” by “securing the borders from illegal immigration.”

Planned Parenthood spokesperson Roger Rathman condemned the anti-abortion billboard for “using divisive messaging around race to restrict access to medical care.” Some residents in



Militant/Stu Singer

At rally in New York City February 26 several thousand protested attacks on abortion rights and bill in Congress to cut funding to Planned Parenthood.

the area began tearing parts of it down.

Among those most angry about the billboard was Tricia Fraser, mother of the girl photographed in the ad. “I would never endorse something like that,” she stated. Fraser had taken her daughter Anissa and her other children to a modeling agency for photographs two years ago, but said she never thought their images would be used in an antiabortion ad. “I want an apology,” she told the *Daily News*. “At the same time I’m

concerned that they can use that image again.”

Concerned that protests would occur by the site, Lamar Advertising decided to take the billboard down.

Life Always targets Planned Parenthood, a provider of women’s health services nationwide. On its website the antiabortion group attacks Planned Parenthood for placing “the majority of its abortion clinics in minority neighborhoods.”

## Rallies for abortion rights

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using federal money for abortion services. The House must vote for final passage of the bill before it goes before the U.S. Senate.

Marchers chanted, “2, 4, 6, 8, abortion rights in every state” and “Women’s rights are under attack. What do we do? Stand up, fight back!” They made their way to the state capitol to join a rally in solidarity with Wisconsin workers fighting attacks on union rights.

“I think it’s an outrage what is being done to our reproductive rights,” Kala Evans, a senior at Kennesaw State University, told the *Militant*. “They need to stay out of our business!”

Several thousand prochoice supporters rallied in New York City that

day and more than 800 marched in Chicago. Many of the demonstrators in New York came from a nearby rally that had started a few hours earlier in support of the Wisconsin public workers’ fight against union-busting legislation. A couple days earlier a debate broke out in New York over a billboard in the city targeting Black women’s right to abortion.

In Chicago some of the activists attended a similar union rally after the “Walk for Choice” action was done. Dozens of right-wingers opposing abortion rights also staged a counter-protest following the walk.

Maura DeLuca in New York and Laura Anderson in Chicago contributed to this article.



### Stakes for workers in North Africa protests

Libya today is in the midst of a civil war. Workers in Egypt are continuing strikes and demanding an end to the state of emergency and the freeing of political prisoners. The ‘Militant’ brings you weekly news and analysis of developments in the region. Don’t miss an issue.



Antigovernment protesters in Libya

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# 3,000 rally in Trenton, New Jersey, against cuts

BY JOHN STUDER  
AND OSBORNE HART

TRENTON, New Jersey—More than 3,000 unionists, members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), students, and others rallied in pouring rain here February 25. The rally was called to support unionists in Wisconsin who are fighting moves by newly elected governor Scott Walker to gut public workers' right to collective bargaining.

At a Philadelphia protest that day, Nicole, a young Black school teacher, said, "The trend in the country seems to be against us, against keeping unions. What's happening in Wisconsin is helping to restart the labor movement, it's what we need. That's why I'm here."

Efforts to scapegoat public employees as the cause of budget deficits are being advanced all across the country, by both Democratic and Republican elected officials—including governors Christopher Christie here in New Jersey, Andrew Cuomo in New York, and Edmund Brown in California.

While Christie has not yet introduced measures in New Jersey that are directed squarely against bargaining rights, he has slashed state workers' benefits—deep cuts he called the "new normal"—and has campaigned around the country against state workers. He has hailed

Walker's moves in Wisconsin.

Christie has proposed that state workers' payments for health benefits be quadrupled to 30 percent of the total. If this measure is passed, Christie says, he will recommend "property-tax relief for seniors and middle-class homeowners" and try to prevent layoffs.

Among the speakers at the rally here were Richard Trumka, national president of the AFL-CIO, as well as the national presidents of the Painters union and the Plasterers and Cement Masons. Stephanie Bloomingdale, secretary-treasurer of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO, spoke at the rally, along with two other Wisconsin unionists.

"What happens in Wisconsin affects every man, every woman, every child in America," Trumka told a cheering crowd. "We've got to end the scapegoating of our public employees." He called for an "unprecedented wave of solidarity."

James Harris, president of the New Jersey NAACP, spoke, noting that the membership of state unions that are under assault there "is 70 percent women and minorities."

The union officials, while claiming to speak on behalf of working people, said nothing to oppose the moves to make workers foot the bill for the capitalist economic crisis, and some suggested workers should give up still more.

"We all agree we have financial problems," Patrick Finley, national president of the Plasterers and Cement Masons, told the crowd. "The unions were the first ones to step up to the plate to take cuts, and we know that there are things we have to look at and to do our part."

The mood of the crowd was more



Militant/John Studer

More than 3,000 unionists and supporters demonstrate February 26 in Trenton, New Jersey, in solidarity with Wisconsin public workers fighting to defend collective bargaining rights.

militant and ready for a fight against the antiunion moves in Wisconsin, New Jersey, and other states. They responded loudest to the unionists from Wisconsin, who said they planned to stay in their capitol building until they win.

## 'Walk like an Egyptian'

A number of workers carried homemade signs identifying with workers and others filling the streets in Egypt and other countries across the Middle East and North Africa. "Walk like an Egyptian," one sign read.

Other signs that were popular said, "Not in WI! Not in NJ! Not anywhere!" and "This is not a union issue, this is a working class issue!" Many at the rally argued that defense of their unions, and of gains they had won—far from being at the expense of other workers—are something the labor movement needs to fight to extend to all workers.

At the Trenton rally and at the February 26 protest in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, there were counterdemonstrations organized by those who favor cutting

wages and benefits of public workers. Some identified themselves as tea party activists.

Some participants were open opponents of unions, but others were union members, retired unionists, or others who said they often support workers under assault.

"Jobs and civil rights used to be union issues," said David Brooks, a participant in the counterprotest in Trenton who is Black. "Today Blacks need jobs and we don't see the union bosses working on this," he told the *Militant*. "The tea party is for jobs."

As the union demonstration in downtown Philadelphia was breaking up, another protest of 50 women and men, most of them young, came marching by. They were opposing attacks on abortion rights and defending federal funding for Planned Parenthood. Many unionists applauded and blew whistles, while the abortion rights marchers clapped and chanted back. "Wisconsin's rights are women's rights," read the sign carried by one marcher.

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**The Fight for Women's Rights around the World.** Speaker: David Rosenfeld, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., March 11, 7:30 p.m. 3707 Douglas Ave. Tel.: (515) 255-1707.

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### NEW YORK

#### Manhattan

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### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Black Farmers Report from Dinwiddie County, Virginia.** Speakers: John Bonner; Lester Bonner; and Susan LaMont, Socialist Workers Party. Sun. March 13, 4 p.m. 143 Kennedy St NW, Suite 15. Tel.: (202) 536-5080.

### NEW ZEALAND

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## 'Working people need to stick together'

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large numbers. Fifteen members of United Steelworkers Local 7-669, which represents atomic energy workers locked out by Honeywell since June in Metropolis Illinois, traveled close to 500 miles to show their solidarity.

James Preston, a member of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 127, whose wife teaches in the Kenosha Unified School District, told the *Militant*, "I'm in the private sector, but this is going to have a domino effect on us. People died for the right to be in a union."

"We've got to remember things like the Ludlow massacre and not forget how hard we fought to get where we are," Preston said. State militia attacked a tent colony of striking coal miners and their families in 1914 in Ludlow, Colorado, killing 20 men, women, and children.

Thousands of union supporters, including many students, have remained inside the capitol building here around the clock. Walker announced February 27 that protesters would be removed, but officials later permitted them to remain overnight, where they have been since February 14, although restricted in the last few days to the first floor.

Meanwhile, around the country, "We Are Wisconsin" rallies drew thousands of participants. Some 5,000

demonstrated in New York City; 3,000 at the state capitol in Trenton, New Jersey; 2,500 in Olympia, Washington; more than 1,000 in Chicago; and 1,000 in Boston.

The labor protests are in response to newly elected governor Walker's proposals to take away public employees' right to negotiate contracts with the government over benefits and working conditions. State workers would have to pay more toward their pensions and health insurance, amounting to at least an 8 percent cut in pay.

Nine states already have laws that prevent collective bargaining for state workers. In Ohio and Tennessee officials are introducing bills modeled on

the Wisconsin attack.

The governor's deficit reduction bill would only allow public workers' unions to negotiate for higher wages; at the same time future wage increases would be capped at the federal Consumer Price Index rate of inflation, unless otherwise specified by a "voter referendum."

Walker's proposed "Budget Repair" bill passed the state assembly this past week. But with Democratic Party senators still out of state, the senate here does not have a quorum and cannot pass the bill. Walker has stated that he has readied layoff notices for about 12,000 of the state's 175,000 public employees if the bill is not approved.

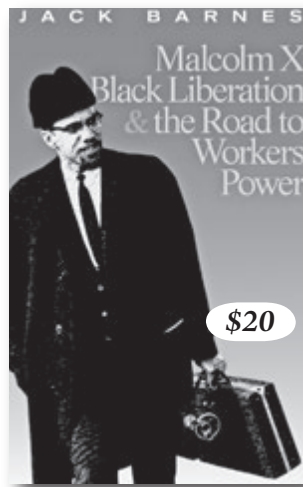
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# Join the union fight in Wisconsin!

**Continued from front page**

ployees of the very right to collective bargaining on benefits, pensions, and work conditions. Walker, a Republican, is pushing the lie that the so-called budget crisis facing U.S. cities and states is the fault of public workers, who have won improved wages, health care, and pensions over the years.

Walker is appealing to workers in private industry, especially those who may have lost jobs or seen wages and benefits cut, hoping to stir up resentment of workers employed by the state. Those of us who go to Wisconsin can talk to and help convince fellow working people who've been taken in by these false arguments, or who are unsure.

Democrats, from New York governor Andrew Cuomo to Gov. Edmund Brown in California, echo these arguments to rationalize antilabor measures in those states. Meanwhile, President Barack Obama, who claims to be prolabor, has meekly asked that public employees not be "denigrated," while insisting that "the concept of shared sacrifice should prevail"—the capitalists' code words for cutting wages and benefits.

Workers in Wisconsin, and increasingly those watching the battle in other states, have stood up and said "No!" The largest labor mobilizations in years are taking place in solidarity with public workers in Wisconsin, joined not only by public employees, but by more and more manufacturing workers in private industry, who see the writing on the wall. If this bill passes, they know they are next.

The last week of February saw demonstrations in scores of cities and towns, involving tens of thousands. They took place in large cities like Chicago as well as small towns like Hudson, Wisconsin, population 12,000, where several hundred demonstrated. Unions involved in struggles of their own sent delegations to Madison, like United Steelworkers Local 7-669 in Metropolis, Illinois, locked out by Honeywell.

A group of 161 unionists from Los Angeles flew to the state capitol. Local 48G bakery union workers locked out by Roquette America in Keokuk, Iowa, drove to Des Moines, Iowa, for a solidarity rally.

Working people stand a little taller today, seeing the unity and solidarity we are showing in Wisconsin. As locked-out Keokuk worker Drake Custer put it, marching for the Wisconsin workers in Des Moines February 26: "Pride doesn't come from being persecuted. Pride comes from fighting and participating with people like this."

Pride also comes from seeing fellow workers in Egypt, Tunisia, and other countries in North Africa and the Middle East beginning to wrest the right to organize and participate in politics. Small wonder "Fight like an Egyptian" was a popular sign at the "We are Wisconsin" rally in Los Angeles.

When you go to actions such as these, take a bundle of the *Militant* with you to sell. It's a weekly source of news about labor and other struggles across the United States and around the world—and political lessons the working-class movement has learned from victories and defeats over some 150 years. Show the paper around at work, at the union hall, or on your campus. Let fellow workers know how they can subscribe and order extra copies. Join a team of *Militant* distributors going to Wisconsin from a town near you. (See the directory on page 5.)

As the attacks on workers and our unions have mounted in recent years, the union officialdom has remained in retreat. They have continued to hitch prospects for working people to the capitalist system and to the political parties of the bosses, the Democrats and Republicans. But this has only emboldened the employers and their government to take more—at the local, state, and federal levels.

Now a fight has begun to be joined. This is the moment to stand alongside unionists and workers in Wisconsin. The battles won't end there.

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# U.S./NATO 'no-fly zone' threat in Libya

**Continued from front page**

itarian support" to Benghazi, Libya's second largest city, and was studying military options. U.S. defense secretary Robert Gates announced March 1 that he was sending two warships and 400 marines to the Mediterranean Sea near Libya.

While some in the bourgeois leadership of the opposition forces initially said they opposed foreign intervention, a growing number by early March were advocating U.S. and NATO action and a no-fly zone.

"We are probably going to call for foreign help, probably air strikes at strategic locations that will put the nail in [Gadhafi's] coffin," stated Mustafa Gheriani, a spokesman for the February 17th Coalition, which says it is governing Benghazi.

Gadhafi was often in conflict with Washington and other imperialist powers after heading a coup by the army officer corps that overthrew King Idris in 1969. He closed down U.S. and British military bases the next year. In 1977 he declared Libya was a "people's revolution," set up so-called revolutionary committees, and changed the country's name to the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The anti-imperialist and socialist rhetoric masked Gadhafi's autocratic rule and appropriation of a large part of oil profits to accumulate a fortune for himself and his family.

Especially after the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, Gadhafi cultivated friendlier relations with Washington. He agreed to end a nuclear weapons program, handing over more than 4,000 centrifuges and other bomb-making technology, and began collaborating with U.S. spy agencies against alleged Islamist militants. U.S. and British oil companies returned to Libya

## Libya historically divided

Prior to gaining its independence in 1951, Libya was divided into three provinces—Tripolitania, Cyrenaica, and Fezzan—that did not function as a single country.

After ousting Italian colonial rule during World War II, the French imperialists ruled Fezzan and the British controlled Cyrenaica—with Benghazi as its capital—and Tripolitania.

Before independence there was not a single university in Libya. Most of the population was illiterate, and some 80 percent were nomadic herdsman or farmers. Tribal ties played a key role.

After the discovery of oil in 1959 this began to change. In 1970, just 50 percent of Libyans lived in cities. By 1985 more than 75 percent did.

In a country three times the size of Texas, less than 2 percent of the land is suitable for agriculture. There is little industry outside of oil. Libya's reserves are estimated at 30 billion barrels, including what oil companies consider some of the best crude in the world. Oil accounts for more than 90 percent of the country's income.

## Gadhafi used tribes to keep control

Gadhafi used the tribal ties and divisions to bolster his control and never built a strong centralized army. Some 45,000 poorly equipped soldiers, half of them draftees, were organized in part along tribal lines. Gadhafi relies on better equipped paramilitary forces, some of them commanded by his sons.

Gadhafi created a council that brought together 32 of the major tribal leaders, but prohibited the formation of any opposition political parties, much less any national structure that could be an alternative to the personal power of himself and his family.

Many army and air force officers, rank-and-file soldiers, and high-ranking government officials have joined the rebel forces.

Gadhafi, desperately seeking to shore up his support in Tripoli, announced he was giving \$400 to every family in the city and promised interest-free housing loans of up to \$49,000. Meanwhile, the price of rice has gone up 500 percent to \$4 a pound, most butcher shops are closed, and bakeries are limited to selling five loaves of bread per family.

# Help get out the 'Militant' at Wisconsin rallies!

**BY BRIAN WILLIAMS**

The *Militant* has been an important voice helping to build solidarity backing public workers in Wisconsin. We urge our readers to get a bundle of the paper and help circulate it at protests against the antiunion Wisconsin bill and other fights going on.

At a Wisconsin solidarity rally of about 300 people in Miami, 10 people subscribed to the *Militant* and another 45 single copies were sold. "Earlier that morning we sold 20 copies of the *Militant* to members of the International Longshore Association gathering to sign up for work at the union hall in Ft. Lauderdale," reports Naomi Craine. "One woman bought the paper going into the hall. On her way out she said, 'I've already read a couple of the articles and they really struck a chord.'"

*Militant* supporters sold 12 subscriptions and 70 single copies at a February 26 rally in Madison, Wisconsin, despite bitter cold and heavy snowfall. "Over the past week at three demonstrations in solidarity with Wisconsin workers, we sold 57 *Militants* and six subscriptions," reports Susan LaMont from Washington, D.C. Distributors in Boston sold two subscriptions and 38 papers at actions on Wisconsin and on abortion rights, reports Laura Garza.

In New York City, 13 subscriptions and 67 single copies were sold February 26, reports Tom Baumann. They were purchased at a rally backing the Wisconsin workers, an abortion rights demonstration, and an action supporting the Libyan people rebelling against the Moammar Gadhafi regime.

To order a bundle of the *Militant* contact us at themilitant@mac.com or see the right top of the masthead on our website, www.themilitant.com. Or call us at (212) 244-4899.

# Unions to march in United Kingdom on March 26

**BY PAUL DAVIES**

LONDON—Tens of thousands in the United Kingdom are expected to attend a demonstration being organized by the Trades Union Congress March 26 to protest government cuts in social spending and jobs. A million UK workers are expected to lose jobs in the next four years. So far 50,000 public sector jobs have been eliminated out of the 500,000 projected. A further half a million jobs will be cut as local councils stop work contracted to private companies, including more than 100,000 jobs in construction and 51,000 in manufacturing.

The National Health Service has cut 11,000 jobs in the last year. The initial impact of this was revealed in January with reports that heart surgery and cancer operations were being cancelled, and seriously ill children had to travel about 100 miles to receive care at pediatric units.

The cuts to local government funding is compounded with other attacks on the social wage, including a rise in the retirement age to 66, education cuts, and a 50 percent reduction in the budget for building state subsidized housing.

Union officials have largely blamed the Tory/Liberal government while avoiding a fight with Labour local authorities, who are implementing the cuts. Labour Party leader Edward Miliband, who will speak at the March 26 action, argues, for example, that what is wrong with the cuts is that they are "too far and too fast."

The government's elimination of jobs comes with unemployment already standing at almost 2.5 million. The official inflation rate rose to 4 percent in January. For working people this figure has little to do with what most affects their lives—food, energy, and housing costs. Food inflation is estimated at 4.6 percent.



## ON THE PICKET LINE

### Canada: Airport workers vote down contract, go on strike

MONTREAL—After voting down the final contract offer from Handlex in a close vote, 400 ramp workers and baggage handlers at three airports in Canada went on strike February 15. The bosses immediately declared a lockout of the workers, who are members of the Teamsters union.

The workers load and unload baggage for the main airlines, including Air France, Air Transat, British Airways, and Swissair at Trudeau airport in Montreal, Pearson airport in Toronto, and Mirabel airport north of Montreal. Air Canada hires its own baggage handlers. Handlex remains in operation using management staff and “temporary” workers brought in as scabs, according to strikers.

At a February 25 rally in front of the Air Transat head office near Montreal, striker Micky Lutchman said that the majority of workers earn \$11 an hour or less. Many work split shifts that make home life difficult. He said a year ago the workers accepted a wage freeze but now the company is making bigger profits.

Ramp lead hand Jasper Reyes told the *Militant*, “We work with multimillion dollar planes and equipment. That’s a lot of responsibility. We want to be treated with respect.”

—Beverly Bernardo  
and John Steele

### N.Y. sanitation workers refuse to start shift, protest job conditions

NEW YORK—Some four dozen New York sanitation workers refused to begin their 6 a.m. shift February 24 because of degraded work conditions.

Following a fire that destroyed the workers’ locker room last September, they have had to change into their uniforms in the hallway of a garbage barge in the Hudson River. They also

have to go to a separate trailer for bathrooms and showers.

“We’re not asking for the Taj Mahal,” union trustee Bill Corcoran told the press. “The men have to report every morning and change in a garbage dump.” The workers later began their shifts after the Department of Sanitation promised to meet with them about resolving the problem.

—Angel Lariscy

### India: 40,000 workers march against high prices, layoffs

Some 40,000 workers marched in New Delhi, the capital of India, February 23 against rising prices, layoffs, and the government’s antilabor policies. The action was organized by the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, and attracted workers from a number of different unions.

“We earn R120 [US\$2.65] a day. How can we afford to eat when costs are so high, from rice and wheat



Militant/Beverly Bernardo

Airport workers in Montreal describe fight for higher wages and better work schedules at February 25 protest. They belong to Teamsters union.

to sugar and vegetables?” Sushilabai Marawi, a farm laborer from the western state of Maharashtra, asked the *Financial Times*. “We want to send a message to the leaders of this

country.”

Official inflation in India is currently at 8.2 percent, one of the highest rates in Asia.

—Brian Williams

## Workers offer solidarity after New Zealand quake

Continued from front page

midday during a workday and produced extremely high ground acceleration. It was on a different fault line, nearer to the city and closer to the ground surface.

Residents in the suburbs were left without electricity, water, sanitation, or phone services. An estimated 100,000 houses were damaged and 10,000 destroyed. Roads were cracked. Liquefaction turned much of the soil to wet toxic mush, leaving a residue of 180,000 tons of silt. Worst hit were the predominantly working-class suburbs in the east.

As of February 28, around 35 percent of houses still have no water and won’t for weeks. Fifteen percent have no power. All water must be boiled as sewage pipes are broken, causing contamination. Several cases of gastrointestinal illness have occurred. The City Council reports it has delivered 780 portable toilets to “priority areas,” but in many working-class areas that are most affected, residents report that none are available.

Thousands of the city’s 350,000 inhabitants, especially the better off, have left the city. More than 50,000 flew out over the five days following the quake, double the normal rate.

Among the majority remaining many banded together in city neighborhoods to organize water distribution, cook food, accommodate the homeless, and clean up, as they did in the days following the September 4 quake. An immediate task was clearing sludge and silt.

Several thousand students are part of an organized group helping residents to clear silt and clean up properties. Known as the Student Volunteer Army, the group first formed following the previous quake.

Up to 1,000 farmers and others from surrounding districts have been organized by Federated Farmers to travel to the city each day with spades to help clear silt.

Maori organizations have been providing accommodation for the homeless and transporting food collected by Maori around the country into the city for distribution.

In the nearby town of Rangiora, some 500 volunteers have set up a center at the local race course collecting food, water, and other needed supplies, as well as preparing cooked meals, which are being flown by helicopter into the Christchurch suburbs for distribution.

Following the September 4 earth-

quake 181,702 insurance claims had been lodged with the Earthquake Commission for damage to homes and properties. To date only 23 percent of these had been paid out, leaving many damaged houses, shops, and other premises still awaiting repairs.

Key announced February 27 that household insurance premiums paid to the commission could now triple. He estimated the cost of rebuilding from the latest quake at more than \$14 billion.

The destruction of so many buildings throughout the city has highlighted the inadequacy and lack of enforcement of building codes. A 2004 change in the law required local councils to adopt policies to strengthen older buildings to at least one-third of the current building standard. But even that inadequate measure has been ignored.

Agnes Sullivan and Ruth Gray in Christchurch contributed to this article.

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# Gen. Alfonso Zayas is ‘example of wh

## Havana Book Fair presentation of book by peasant rebel who becan

BY DOUG NELSON  
AND JOHN HAWKINS

HAVANA—Some 75 people, many of them longtime revolutionary combatants, attended a panel presentation here on *Soldier of the Cuban Revolution: From the Cane Fields of Oriente to General in the Revolutionary Armed Forces*. The book is an interview with Brig. Gen. Alfonso Zayas, whose life of revolutionary struggle began in 1955 as one of the initial recruits to the July 26 Revolutionary Movement led by Fidel Castro.

The February 18 event, held at the Casa del ALBA cultural center in the heart of the city, was among the many book presentations that were part of the Havana International Book Fair.

Published by Pathfinder Press in both English and Spanish earlier this year, *Soldier of the Cuban Revolution* offers a vivid portrait of the kind of men and women who made the Cuban Revolution, transforming themselves and all of society in the process.

Speaking at the presentation, in addition to Zayas, were Brig. Gen. Harry Villegas, executive vice president of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution (ACRC); Esmel Valera, national vice president of Cuba’s Federation of University Students (FEU); and Mary-Alice Waters, editor of the book and a leader of the Socialist Workers Party. Iraida Aguirrechu of Editora Política, publishing house of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, chaired the meeting.

*Soldier of the Cuban Revolution* is the latest in a series of books and pamphlets published by Pathfinder Press on the Cuban Revolution, currently numbering more than 20 titles. These books are published in the United States and distributed throughout the world to help “prepare us all for the revolutionary battles to come as we enter the most profound crisis the capitalist system has known in almost a century,” explained Waters in her opening remarks. (See text of Waters’s remarks on facing page.)

As a youth Zayas, the son of a sugarcane farmer, helped on his father’s small



Photo at left, Gen. Harry Villegas (center) speaking February 18 at Havana book fair event to launch new book, *Soldier of the Cuban Revolution: From the Cane Fields of Oriente to General in the Revolutionary Armed Forces* by Brig. Gen. Alfonso Zayas. Villegas and Zayas fought together in 1956–58 revolutionary war that toppled U.S.-backed Batista. Photo at right, book fair participants line up to have Zayas sign copy of book.



farm, cut cane, broke rock, and worked at other jobs on the U.S.-owned Chaparra sugar plantation in what is today Las Tunas province, in eastern Cuba. In the first chapter Zayas paints a picture of the social and political conditions in the countryside during the 1940s and '50s that led him and others of his generation to take up arms against the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

Hundreds, then thousands of Cubans, “especially young people, threw themselves into the struggle against Batista’s murderous regime,” Zayas told the audience. As a teenager he joined the July 26 Movement, led by Fidel Castro, “who was the clearest about the perspectives for overthrowing that government” through a revolutionary struggle.

Zayas led an armed action in his hometown of Puerto Padre on Nov. 29, 1956, in support of the 82 combatants aboard the yacht *Granma* who landed a few days later elsewhere in eastern Cuba to begin the revolutionary war against the Batista dictatorship. He was part of the first major group of reinforcements for the Rebel Army in the Sierra Maes-

tra mountains of eastern Cuba in March 1957.

In the final months of 1958, Zayas helped lead the Rebel Army’s march into central Cuba as a member of Column 8 under Ernesto Che Guevara’s command.

Today, “Cubans who are younger than 52, 53 years old,” Zayas said, “don’t know firsthand what it used to be like in Cuba” before the revolution. “It’s our responsibility to try to explain it.”

*Soldier of the Cuban Revolution*, he added, “will also be useful for young generations in other countries where they don’t know about the struggles of our people. They will learn not only about those of the past, he said, but also about our ongoing struggle today to build a socialist society.”

Since the victory of the revolution in 1959, Zayas has shouldered numerous leadership responsibilities, from secretary of the Cuban Communist Party in Holguín and Las Tunas provinces to second in command of the Youth Army of Labor, a special unit of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) engaged in agricultural labor, construction, transport, and other work vital to the Cuban economy.

### Served three times in Angola

Zayas served three times as part of Cuba’s internationalist mission in Angola, which helped that country defeat multiple invasions by the white-supremacist regime of South Africa between 1975 and 1991. Promoted to brigadier general, Zayas retired from active duty in 1998 and today serves as part of the national leadership of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution.

Esmel Valera told the audience he found *Soldier of the Cuban Revolution* very readable and informative for young people such as himself. “It caught my attention because I too am from Las Tunas province,” he said. Through Zayas’s account and the photos in the book, Valera said he learned things about the revolutionary struggle he hadn’t known.

“This book shows us the development of a true revolutionary,” Valera said. “The picture emerges of a modest man

always ready to undertake whatever task is necessary, always ready to help in advancing the revolution.” Among other things, Valera said he was struck by Zayas’s firsthand account of “the thousands of combatants who came to the aid of the Angolan people.”

“For young people in Cuba this book is of immeasurable value,” Valera concluded. “We haven’t had the opportunity to be protagonists in the deeds described. When you read the book, you end up wanting to be like Zayas, like that historic generation.”

The final speaker was Harry Villegas, who, like Zayas, joined the July 26 Movement and Rebel Army as a teenager, and became a general in the Revolutionary Armed Forces. Known by his nom de guerre “Pombo,” Villegas served under Ernesto Che Guevara in internationalist missions in the Congo in 1965 and in Bolivia in 1966–67. He volunteered for multiple missions in Angola.

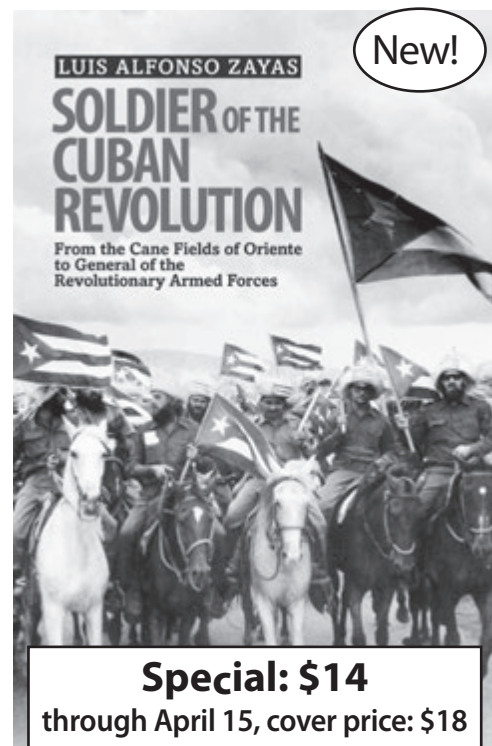
“We combatants were called upon to write, to transmit our experiences so they could help educate future generations,” Villegas said. He was referring to the call nearly two decades ago by Cuban president Raúl Castro, at that time minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, to form the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution. With 300,000 members, the ACRC brings together several generations of revolutionary fighters.

Many of those in the audience were members and leaders of the Combatants Association. Among them were generals Jesús Bermúdez Cutiño and Armando Choy, as well as Víctor Dreke. In the early 1960s Dreke commanded the special units in the Escambray mountains cleaning out armed counterrevolutionary bands financed and organized by U.S. imperialism, and later was second in command to Che Guevara in the Congo.

Villegas described the years of work by communists in the United States in collaboration with the Combatants Association to publish books that bring the Cuban Revolution to life through the stories of revolutionary combatants,

## Soldier of the Cuban Revolution

*From the Cane Fields of Oriente to General of the Revolutionary Armed Forces*



Luis Alfonso Zayas, today a general in the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, recounts his experiences over five decades in the Cuban Revolution. From a teenage combatant in the clandestine struggle and 1956–58 war that brought down a U.S.-backed dictatorship, to serving three times as a leader of the Cuban volunteer forces that helped Angola defeat repeated invasions by the army of white-supremacist South Africa, Zayas tells how he and millions of ordinary men and women in Cuba changed the course of history and, in the process, transformed themselves as well.

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# ‘What we aspire to be’

## the leader of Cuban Revolution



Militant photos left, Naomi Craine; right, Rebecca Williamson  
: *From the Cane Fields of Oriente to General of the*  
*ed Batista dictatorship in Cuba. Also on panel from*  
*vice president of Federation of University Students;*  
*book.*

including himself—an undertaking that coincides with similar projects the Combatants have taken on inside Cuba.

Villegas paid tribute to Zayas as a lifelong proletarian fighter. When Villegas arrived in the Sierra Maestra to join the

Rebel Army, “Zayas had already been there as a combatant for 10 months” and was a veteran of many battles, Villegas said.

“For me Zayas was then already an example of what we all aspire to be, just as he is today for all of you. I wanted to be like Zayas, he inspired me—his honesty, his courage, his revolutionary conviction.”

Zayas’s life and activity in the revolutionary movement can “inspire us to arrive at our own similar convictions and emulate his example,” Villegas said. “*Soldier of the Cuban Revolution* is a powerful piece of literature that helps us do so.”

### Other presentations

In the week following the February 20 closing of the Havana book fair, the ACRC sponsored three other presentations of *Soldier of the Cuban Revolution*, along with *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes, another title presented by Pathfinder Press at the fair. Some 200 people participated in the three events.

One presentation was held at the National Combatants Center in Havana. Another was organized in the city of Artemisa, an hour west of the capital.



Bohemia

Peasant family by home with roof and side made from palm trees, a form of construction common in rural Cuba in 1950s. Today Cubans younger than 50 years old “don’t know what it used to be like in Cuba” before revolution, said Zayas. “It’s our responsibility to try to explain it.”

A third was held in Cotorro, an outlying district of Havana. Speakers included Victor Dreke and César Alba, vice president of the ACRC in Havana province. Altogether more than 500 copies of *Soldier of the Cuban Revolution* were sold or distributed in Cuba during the book fair and other related activities.

A total of 82 copies of *Soldier of the Cuban Revolution* and 81 of *Malcolm*

*X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* were sold at the three events. Another 183 copies of *Soldier of the Cuban Revolution* were sold at the Havana book fair activities and 150 were donated to libraries, institutions, and individuals.

Rebecca Williamson and Naomi Craine contributed to this article.

# ‘Arming ourselves for coming battles’

## Talk by Mary-Alice Waters, editor of ‘Soldier of Cuban Revolution’

The following are remarks by Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press and a longtime National Committee member of the Socialist Workers Party, presented February 18 in Havana, Cuba. Waters was part of a panel there to launch the book *Soldier of the Cuban Revolution: From the Cane Fields of Oriente to General of the Revolutionary Armed Forces* by Luis Alfonso Zayas. The book was published in January by Pathfinder in English and Spanish.

The presentation of *Soldier of the Cuban Revolution* was one of some 800 book launches and other events during this year’s 11-day Havana International Book Fair (see article on the book launching on facing page). Waters, who edited and wrote the introduction to the book, is also the editor of *New Internationalist* magazine. The introduction was reprinted in the January 10 issue of the *Militant*.

The main speaker was Brig. Gen. Harry Villegas. Villegas fought alongside Zayas in the Rebel Army during Cuba’s 1956–58 revolutionary war and later served—under the nom de guerre Pombo, by which he is still widely known—in internationalist missions under the command of Ernesto Che Guevara in Congo in 1965 and in Bolivia in 1966–67. Villegas is currently executive vice president of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution (ACRC).

The panel was chaired by Iraida Aguirrechu of Editora Política, the publishing house of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba. Also speaking were Esmel Valera, vice president of the Federation of University

Students (FEU) in Cuba, and Brigadier General Zayas, the author of the book.

Subheadings have been added by the *Militant*, as well as a few footnotes to explain events or names that may not be familiar to readers outside Cuba. Waters’s remarks are copyright © 2011 by Pathfinder Press and reprinted by permission.

**“Without the substantial numbers of young rural toilers who knew the ways of the countryside, how to work, and were used to hard physical labor—victory for the Rebel Army would have come at a much greater price. . .”**

### BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

First, a thank you to Iraida, not only for chairing this program today, but for all her work, without which the book we are presenting here would not have been possible.

It is an honor to share the platform today with compañero Pombo, as well as with our author, Alfonso Zayas. And we are especially happy to have with us Esmel Valera, vice president of FEU and himself a native of Las Tunas province, where he grew up not far from the cane fields in which compañero Zayas began his political life more than half a century ago.

On behalf of Pathfinder Press, I want to take advantage of this moment, on the eve of the coming congress of the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution<sup>1</sup> in March, to express our profound appreciation to all the compañeros y compañeras of the ACRC who have extended their collaboration and

opened their lives to us over what is now approaching two decades of work together.

It is only your comradeship and help that has allowed us to publish a growing list of books and pamphlets, now numbering more than 20 titles, the big majority in both Spanish and English, that have one and only one aim: to al-

low the authentic voices of those who overturned the U.S.-backed tyranny of Fulgencio Batista and made the socialist revolution to be heard around the world. These accounts help bring the real history of the Cuban Revolution alive to new generations of revolutionary-minded working people and youth attracted to them.

### Arms us for coming battles

We do this to help those who did not live through these revolutionary

1. Founded in 1993, the ACRC is an organization of fighters from the Rebel Army, the urban clandestine struggle, battles against counterrevolutionary bands and U.S. imperialist military threats and assaults, and Cuba’s internationalist missions from the Americas, to Africa, and beyond. Its more than 300,000 members work to help transmit the revolution’s history and lessons to new generations in Cuba.



Militant/Rebecca Williamson

Mary-Alice Waters: “What lies ahead is decades of economic and social convulsions, but more important, the inevitable resistance this imperialist reality will generate.”

struggles to understand what produces men and women for whom words such as “dignity” and “justice” mean dignity and justice for the oppressed and exploited of the world and dictate a course of proletarian action for a lifetime.

We do this to help those entering into struggles today to understand what a socialist revolution truly is.

We do this to prepare us all for the revolutionary battles to come, as we enter the most profound crisis the capitalist system has known in almost a century. What lies ahead is decades of economic and social convulsions, financial crises, and spreading wars. That future is inevitable.

Continued on page 8



# ‘Arming ourselves’

Continued from page 7

itable, the product of capitalism itself.

Above all, however—and far more important—is the inevitable resistance this imperialist reality will generate.

*Soldier of the Cuban Revolution* helps arm us for these coming battles.

## Conditions of life and labor

There are four things in the story of Alfonso Zayas that readers outside of Cuba find striking.

First is the author’s description of conditions of life and labor growing up on one of the vast U.S.-owned sugar plantations in eastern Cuba before the revolution. Today those lands are part of the province of Las Tunas. It is the details of Zayas’s account that are so helpful.

To many of you here today, those details are common knowledge—you, too, were born and grew up under such conditions. But for the big majority who will read this book in Cuba and abroad, their concreteness gives us new understanding.

The narrow-gauge trolley, the *buda*, which isolated rural working people within the plantation’s borders.

The vast reserve army of unemployed in the countryside and the desperate competition for jobs.

How the *colono* system shifted onto the shoulders of the individual farmer—whether a small owner or a tenant—all the risks of capitalist cane cultivation.

The infamous “sugar quota”—the trade “agreement” imposed by Washington that set the yearly tonnage exported from Cuba to the United States—and how it, too, bore down on every single campesino. For the first time I understood the force of the popular cry—*¡Sin cuota pero sin bota!* (Without the quota, but without the boot!)—that greeted Washington’s opening shots in the ferocious 50-year economic war against the working people of Cuba.

These and many other details captured in the book give life to the class relations on the land before the revolution.

## Fighters used to physical labor

Second, through Zayas’s account of the battles and campaigns he was part of during the revolutionary war to bring down the Batista tyranny, the reader comes to appreciate one thing above all. Without the substantial numbers of men and women like Zayas who joined the Rebel Army—young rural toilers who knew the ways of the countryside, who knew how to work and were used to hard physical labor, who knew how to get things done—victory for the Rebel Army would have come at a much greater price, if at all.

I was particularly struck by the bal-

ance sheet drawn by Zayas of the hardships faced by Che’s Column 8, as the original 48-hour invasion plan turned into a grueling 47 days to reach the Escambray.<sup>2</sup>

“If we’d done it in 48 hours perhaps we would not have weeded out the quitters,” Zayas says in the interview, “those who didn’t have the willpower to continue.”

“Perhaps we would never have been able to measure the capacities of those who did.”

## Revolutionary justice, not revenge

Third, Che named Zayas head of the prison at the La Cabaña fortress in Havana, where soon more than 1,000 of Batista’s thugs and assassins were being held awaiting trial by revolutionary tribunals.

From the opening days of the revolution, imperialist “democracy,” headquartered in Washington, sought to portray the trials and convictions of these torturers and murderers as a violation of their rights. Just as today the U.S. rulers still attempt to turn their hireling “dissidents” in Cuba into victims of “human rights” abuse.

Zayas reminds us that “had these individuals been released, they would have been lynched in the street” across liberated Cuba. His words echo Fidel’s observation that “this may have been the only revolution in which the main war criminals were tried and brought to justice, the only revolution that . . . didn’t take revenge.”<sup>3</sup>

It provides a powerful answer to what has been for decades the ongoing political line of attack against the socialist revolution by imperialist-minded forces claiming to represent “democracy” and “human rights.”

Fourth, Zayas served three tours of duty in Angola, primarily in civilian missions, responding to the requests of the Angolan government for aid.<sup>4</sup> The last was in Cabinda province, in 1985–87, where he worked on development plans for that impoverished, oil-rich territory, drawing on his years of experience as party secretary in the Cuban provinces of Las Tunas and Holguín.

For readers in the United States, Zayas’s account of that experience is of special interest for two reasons.

First, because so little information on Cuba’s internationalist mission in Angola is available. Every window that opens onto it is a rare contribution.

Second, because it gives us an additional weapon to use in the battle for the



Militant

Portion of audience at February 26 presentation in Artemisa, Cuba, near Havana, sponsored by Association of Combatants of Cuban Revolution. Event discussed *Soldier of the Cuban Revolution* and *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes, Socialist Workers Party national secretary.

freedom of our five Cuban compañeros, three of whom—René, Fernando, and Gerardo—served in Angola, and two of those, René and Gerardo, in Cabinda.<sup>5</sup> In fact, Gerardo arrived in Cabinda, where he led a Cuban-Angolan scouting platoon, shortly after compañero Zayas had finished his third tour of duty there.

*Soldier of the Cuban Revolution* ends with a tribute by Zayas to the five heroes of Cuba as examples of the proletarian internationalism that marked the hundreds of thousands of Cubans who served in Angola and on other battlefronts.

A full page of photos of the five, in Angola and elsewhere, and of the international campaign to free them, will expand our use of the book as part of the ever-necessary work to involve new layers of working people and youth around the world in the fight until the freedom of the five is won.

## Cover photo

I want to end by mentioning the photo by Raúl Corrales that makes the cover of this book so powerful.

It was taken on May 14, 1960, as the militia unit of workers, peasants, and Rebel Army combatants, organized by the National Institute of Agrarian Reform (INRA), was on its way to the headquarters of the United Fruit Company at the sugar mill then called Preston—and from that day forward known as “Guatemala.”<sup>6</sup>

Their mission was to inform United Fruit’s management that the property

of this U.S.-owned corporation—notorious for exploiting rural toilers across the Americas—had been expropriated by the working people of Cuba and their revolutionary government.

A few years before his death, Corrales gave us the photo for use on some future cover of our choice. I say “gave” it to us, since he accepted only a token \$25 for a photo the rights to which today go for a hundred times that. And Corrales added, “If \$25 is too much for Pathfinder to pay, don’t worry about it.”

The photo is truly an example of the best of the photojournalism by Cuban photographers of the revolution, who are today known around the world. In fact, this very picture only a few weeks ago was the signature photo at an excellent exhibit on “Cuba in Revolution,” organized by the International Center of Photography smack dab in the middle of New York City.

That gesture by Corrales was yet another demonstration of the kind of solidarity that men and women whose lives are inseparable from the Cuban Revolution have extended to younger—and future—generations determined to emulate their actions.

It is the kind of solidarity that made this book possible. The kind of solidarity that will be expressed on April 16 in the massive celebration of the 50th anniversary of Fidel’s declaration to the world of the socialist character of the Cuban Revolution.

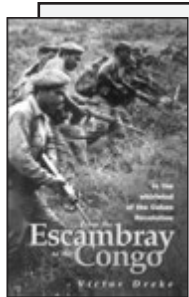
We are very happy to be able to publish *Soldier of the Cuban Revolution* as a small contribution to this living history.

1. The “invasion” was the name given in Cuba to the westward offensive in late 1958 of the Rebel Army’s Column 8, commanded by Ernesto Che Guevara, and Column 2, commanded by Camilo Cienfuegos. That offensive unified forces fighting in Las Villas province of central Cuba under the leadership of the Rebel Army and culminated in the liberation of the city of Santa Clara. The westward march coincided with the consolidation of the Second and Third Fronts in Eastern Cuba under the command of Raúl Castro and Juan Almeida respectively; the extension of the revolutionary war to other fronts in Oriente province; and the campaign led by forces under the command of Fidel Castro, closing in on Santiago de Cuba. This strategic offensive culminated in the victorious revolutionary insurrection and general strike that brought down the Batista regime on Jan. 1, 1959.
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3. Fidel Castro, *My Life* (New York: Allen Lane, 2007), pp. 220–21.

4. Between late 1975 and early 1991, in response to requests from the newly independent Angolan government, Cuba sent 375,000 volunteer combatants and 50,000 civilian volunteers to that country to help defeat U.S.-backed military intervention deep inside its territory by the white supremacist regime in South Africa. The combined Angolan-Cuban forces turned back two major South African invasions and ongoing military assaults in those years, culminating in a crushing defeat of the South African forces at Cuito Cuanavale in March 1988.
5. Five Cuban revolutionaries arrested in Miami in September 1998 on frame-up charges of being a “Cuban spy network.” In June 2001 each of them was convicted on charges of “conspiracy to act as an unregistered foreign agent.” Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, and Ramón Labañino were also convicted of “conspiracy to commit espionage,” and Hernández of “con-

spiracy to commit murder.” They were given sentences from 15 years to double life plus 15 years. The five were monitoring counterrevolutionary groups in the United States to keep the Cuban government informed of plans for armed attacks. The life sentences against Labañino and Guerrero have since been reduced to 30 and 21 years respectively, but Hernández is still condemned to two life sentences and each of the five has served more than 12 years in U.S. federal prisons. For the story of Hernández’s scouting platoon in Cabinda, see “‘12 men and 2 cats’: With Gerardo Hernández and his platoon in Angola” in the August 16, 2010, issue of the *Militant*.

6. The mill was given that name by INRA in honor of the people of Guatemala, whose government was overthrown in 1954 in a US-organized coup to reverse a land reform affecting holdings of United Fruit and other U.S. corporations.



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